

Classic. For that game to even be played between Nebraska and Penn State, it was an outside the season game, the NCAA and the Big 8 had to bend their rules to allow it. It was strictly a moneymaking proposition. Along with that money some private donations were given by two families in Denver for the construction of what has been called the Hewitt Center for Student Athletes, or something to that effect. It has a very modern kitchen, a full staff of cooks and other people to prepare food and keep the place desirable. As a matter of fact as the resolution points out academic counselor, Ursula Walsh described it as, "A warm, pleasant, homey, quiet place where people would want to come to eat and study." I can find no quarrel with that. But when she said people that term should include females. Since the facility is open to all male athletes in all sports, it is clear that it is not restricted to the football team. As I mentioned to one of my colleagues earlier today, if they said it was strictly an eating and training study facility for the football team you might argue with that kind of elitism. But at least they have adopted a rationale. When they open it to all male athletes in all sports and bar all females, in whatever sport, it becomes a gender-based discrimination and as such it is violative of the policies of the state and the University against such discrimination. Because the female athletes have to put in tremendous amounts of time and effort not only of a physical kind to compete at that level but to overcome some of the negative attitudes that some people still have toward women in athletics, they should not, at that University, be cast in a status of inferiority simply because of their gender. Just a few days ago the women's softball team participated in a national championship game. They came in second, but number two nationally is not the worst position to be in. That is higher than sometimes the football team finishes. There have been women participating in track and in volleyball who have received international recognition because of the level of achievement. So if you are going to say that the only way a woman can get any consideration is to excel beyond what is required of a man, then the women have met that requirement. But we are not basing utilization of this facility on the level of achievement or ability demonstrated, but simply on gender alone. It think it is not a wise or appropriate thing to do. As the resolution states, the athletic program is a microcosm of the University community in which it operates. There is no program or no activity which would be allowed to exist at